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AUG 09 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
JOHN J. DONNELLY, et al. :
Application No. 09/835,694 : DECISION ON PETITIONS
Filed: April 16, 2001 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. 18972PCA :

This is a decision on the **renewed** petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed December 22, 2005, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of priority to prior-filed nonprovisional and PCT applications, as set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petitions are **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000 and after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

All of the above requirements having been satisfied, the late claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) is accepted as being unintentionally delayed.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.55(c) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) and 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt

accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether this application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Applicant is reminded that where an application claims a benefit under 35 U.S.C 120 of a chain of applications, the application must make reference to the first (earliest) application and every intermediate application. See Sampson v. Ampex Corp., 463 F.2d 1042, 1044-45, 174 USPQ 417, 418-19 (2d Cir. 1972); Sticker Indus. Supply Corp. v. Blaw-Knox Co., 405 F.2d 90, 93, 160 USPQ 177, 179 (7th Cir. 1968); Hovlid v. Asari, 305 F.2d 747, 751, 134 USPQ 162, 165 (9th Cir. 1962). See also MPEP § 201.11. In addition, every intermediate application must also make reference to the first (earliest) application and every application after the first application and before such intermediate application. Petitioner should review the priority claims submitted to ensure that a reference is made to the first application and to every intermediate application. Appropriate references must be made in each intermediate application in the chain of prior applications. If an applicant desires, for example, the following benefit claim: "this application is a continuation of Application No. C, filed ---, which is a continuation of Application No. B, filed ---, which claims the benefit of provisional Application No. A, filed ---," then Application No. C must have a reference to Application No. B and provisional Application No. A, and Application No. B must have a reference to provisional Application No. A. See MPEP 201.11(C). Inspections of the intermediate applications reveal defects in the chain of priority claims. Applicant should review each intermediate application in the chain to ensure compliance with MPEP 201.11(C).

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

The submitted renewed petition fee is unnecessary. Therefore, amount of \$130 has been credited back to petitioner's deposit account.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Amelia Au at (571) 272-7414. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being referred Technology Center Art Unit 1636 for consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the prior-filed applications, and for entry of the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR §1.114 dated December 22, 2005.



Frances Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt



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APPL NO.	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
09/835,694	04/16/2001	1636	1440	18972PCA	46	25	11

CONFIRMATION NO. 5738

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT



OC000000019937570

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Date Mailed: 08/08/2006

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).**

Applicant(s)

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Assignment For Published Patent Application

Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ

Power of Attorney:

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Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of 08/461,268 06/05/1995 ABN
 which is a CIP of PCT/US94/02751 03/14/1994
 which is a CIP of 08/089,985 07/08/1993 ABN
 which is a CON of 08/032,383 03/18/1993 ABN

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 07/02/2001

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is
US09/835,694

Projected Publication Date: Not Applicable

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

Nucleic acid pharmaceuticals-influenza matrix

Preliminary Class

514

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

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GRANTED

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NOT GRANTED

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